The Coimbra Group was founded in 1985 and was formally established by signing the charter two years later. The network is open only to traditional and the oldest institutions across the European area. The purpose of the cooperation is general information about fundamental European topics and the sharing of good practice across leading areas of higher education institutions such as science, teaching, internationalization, etc.

**Organization structure**

The bodies of the association are the Executive Board (regularly elected ten members), which has its chair and vice-chair, the Rectors Advisory Group (a seven-member group composed of active rectors of member universities), the General Assembly and, finally, particular Working Groups, which are divided according to their focus into three large groups, which are science, teaching and external relations. The administrative part of the group is the so-called Coimbra Group Office.

**The Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize**

This is a prestigious financial reward for graduates of master's studies who completed an Erasmus stay at one of the member universities within the Coimbra Group during their studies. Applicants must present how their Erasmus stay helped them to write their thesis. Charles University selects the three best students who apply for the first prize - a financial reward of €5,000.

**3-Minute Thesis (3MT)**

3MT is a competition that takes place during the Coimbra Annual Conference. PhD students have the opportunity to make a video where they have to present the topic of their dissertation within three minutes. Charles University can nominate only one candidate for the competition. The winner will receive a financial bonus.

**Scholarship programmes**

The special scholarship programme is targeted at three specific areas:

1) Latin America,
2) Sub-Saharan Africa,
3) neighboring EU states.

Charles University can offer scholarships for academic staff of universities from the mentioned regions. The scholarship can be targeted at any home faculty of the university. The amount of the scholarship and the number of scholarship places is determined by the home institution, which also determines how the given scholarship can be used. The Coimbra Group subsequently serves as a promotional tool for countries from the regions and at the same
time as the first instance that narrows down the selection of applicants according to the criteria required by domestic institutions.

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